

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

## PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY  
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/JP2005/018596

International filing date (day/month/year)  
30.09.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
13.10.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
H04N7/26, H04N7/50, G06F11/07, G06F9/38

Applicant  
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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10/577718

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/JP2005/018596

1AP20Roc1PCT/PTO 02 MAY 2006

**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - ☐ a sequence listing
    - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - ☐ in written format
    - ☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
    - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/JP2005/018596

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3 8 10
	No: Claims	1 2 4-7 9 11 12
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	3 8 10
	No: Claims	1 2 4-7 9 11 12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING  
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/018596

**Re Item V.**

**1. Reference is made to the following documents:**

- D1 : US 2003/117585 A1 (LEE SEUNG HO) 26 June 2003 (2003-06-26)
- D2 : WO 02/087248 A (INDIGOVISION LIMITED; SMART, MICHAEL, HOWARD, WILLIAM; MACRAE, DONALD,) 31 October 2002 (2002-10-31)
- D3 : US 6 263 422 B1 (WISE ADRIAN P ET AL) 17 July 2001 (2001-07-17)

**2. Independent Claim 1**

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) an image data-processing apparatus (201) comprising:

- an image data-decoding unit (203) operable to allow input encoded data fed into said image data-processing apparatus to be decoded through pipeline processing, thereby providing decoded image data
- a pipeline controller (203a) operable to control the pipeline processing in said image data-decoding unit, and
- a memory (203f) operable to store the input encoded data and the decoded image data.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

**2. Independent Claims 6 and 9**

Independent claim 6 relates to an apparatus for image encoding corresponding to the decoding apparatus of claim 1. This is known from D2 or D3 (see passages cited in the International Search Report) and is directly derivable from the teachings of D1.

Independent claim 9 relates to a method corresponding to the apparatus of claim 1.

*Mutatis mutandis*, the reasoning of previous point 1 can be applied also to such claim, leading to the same objection.

Therefore, also the subject-matter of claims 6 and 9 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

**3. Dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12**

Dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

**4. Dependent Claims 3, 8, 10**

The subject matter of these claims appears to be novel and inventive, and to satisfy the requirements of Article 33(2) and (3) PCT.

P. Foglia